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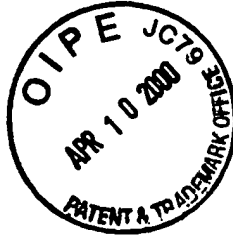
Docket No. 8378.00

Application of

Robert J. Tramontano

Serial No. 09/481,766

Filed: January 11, 2000



**CLAIM FOR BENEFIT OF
EARLIER-FILED FOREIGN
APPLICATION**

APR 06 2000

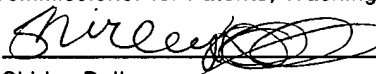
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**FOR: DATA WAREHOUSE APPLICATIONS FOR
NETWORKS OF SELF-SERVICE MACHINES**

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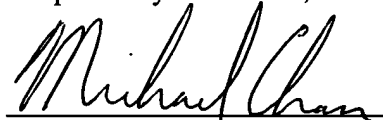
Assistant Commissioner for Patents

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Sir:

Applicants wish to claim the benefit of the filing date of the earlier U.K. Application Serial No. 9901005.0, filed on January 19, 1999, recited in the Declaration under the provision of 35 U.S.C. 119, and accordingly, Applicants submit herewith a certified copy of said British application.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael Chan
Reg. No. 33,663
Attorney for Applicant(s)

NCR Corporation, Law Department, ECD-2
101 West Schantz Avenue, Dayton, OH 45479-0001
Tel. No. 937-445-4956/Fax No. 937-445-3733

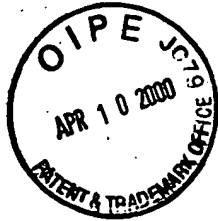
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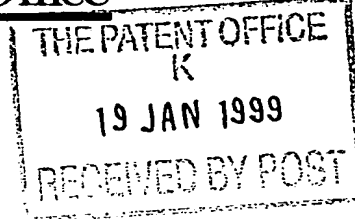
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The Patent Office

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1. Your reference

8378

2. Patent application number

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19 JAN 1999

3. Full name, address and postcode of the or of each applicant (underline all surnames)

NCR INTERNATIONAL, INC.
1700 SOUTH PATTERSON BOULEVARD
DAYTON, OHIO 45479
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Patents ADP number (if you know it)

If the applicant is a corporate body, give the country/state of its incorporation

INCORPORATED IN THE STATE OF DELAWARE

7409352001

4. Title of the invention

DATA WAREHOUSE APPLICATIONS FOR
NETWORKS OF SELF-SERVICE MACHINES

5. Name of your agent (if you have one)

"Address for service" in the United Kingdom
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INTERNATIONAL IP DEPARTMENT
NCR LIMITED
206 MARYLEBONE ROAD
LONDON NW1 6LY

Patents ADP number (if you know it)

7586514001

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Country

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Number of earlier application

Date of filing
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See note (d))

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Claim(s)

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Drawing(s)

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I/We request the grant of a patent on the basis of this application.

Signature *NIR International Inc.* Date 15/1/99

12. Name and daytime telephone number of person to contact in the United Kingdom

FIDELMA CLEARY

TEL: 0171-725 8728

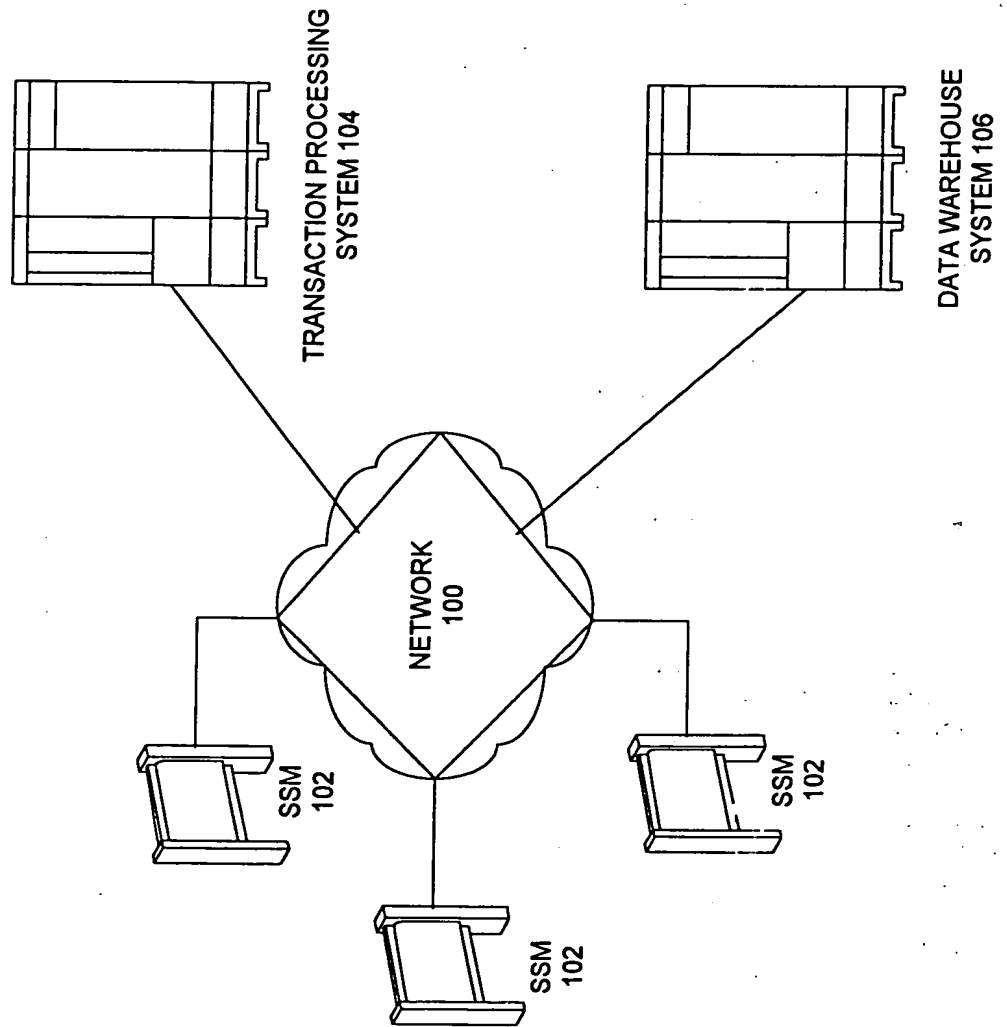
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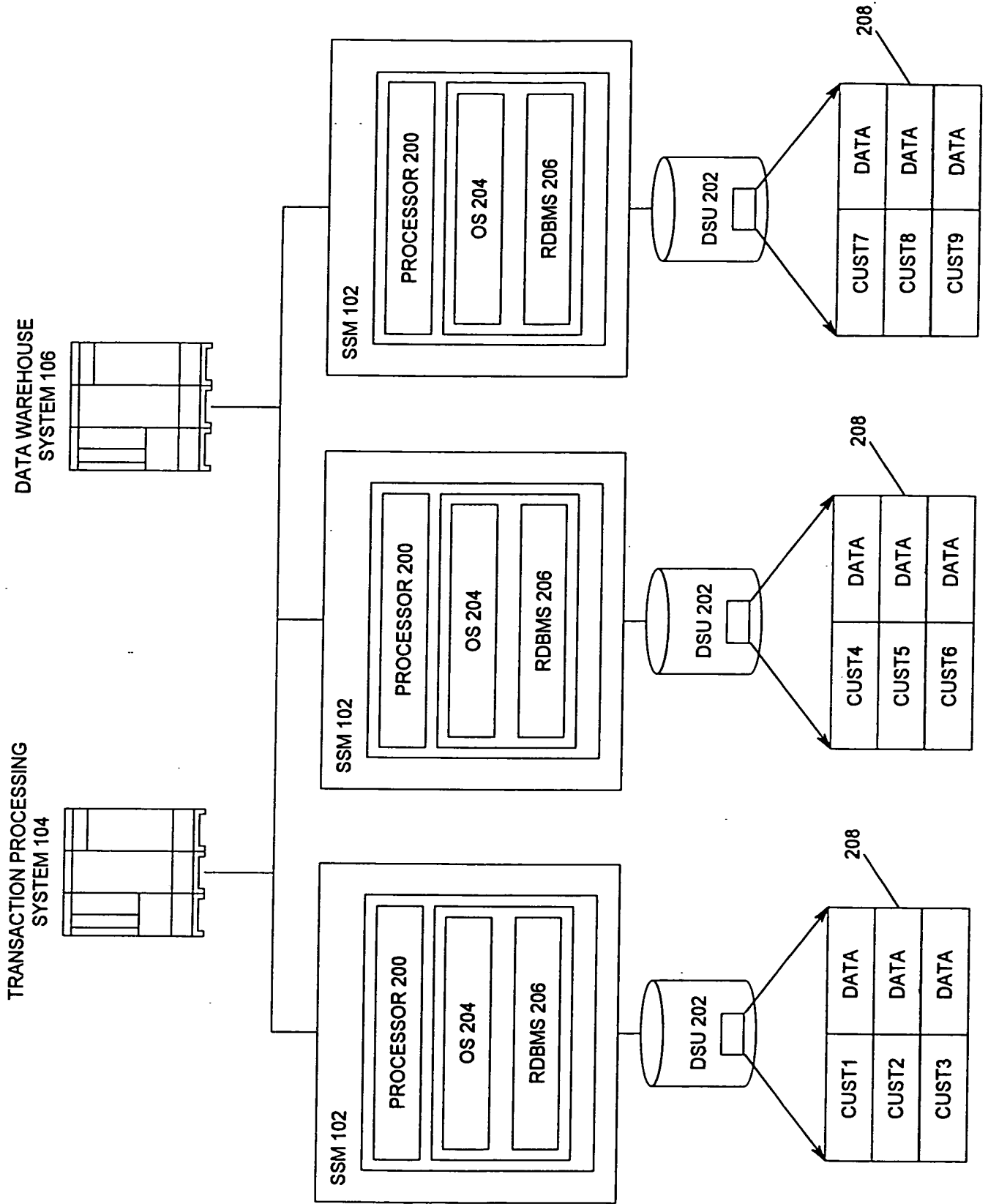
FIG. 1



Spoke

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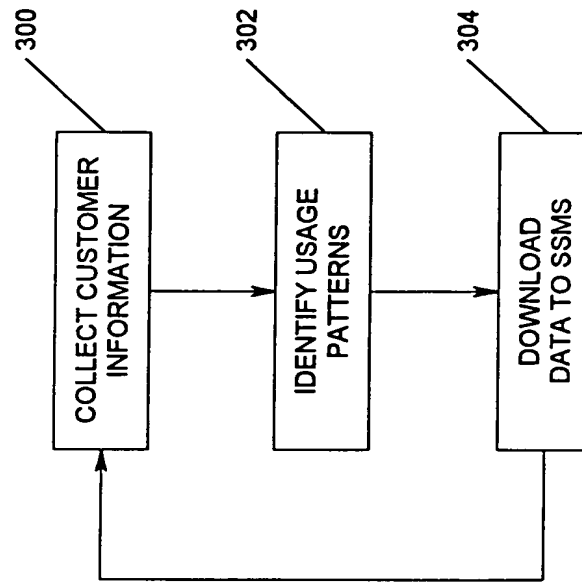
FIG. 2



update

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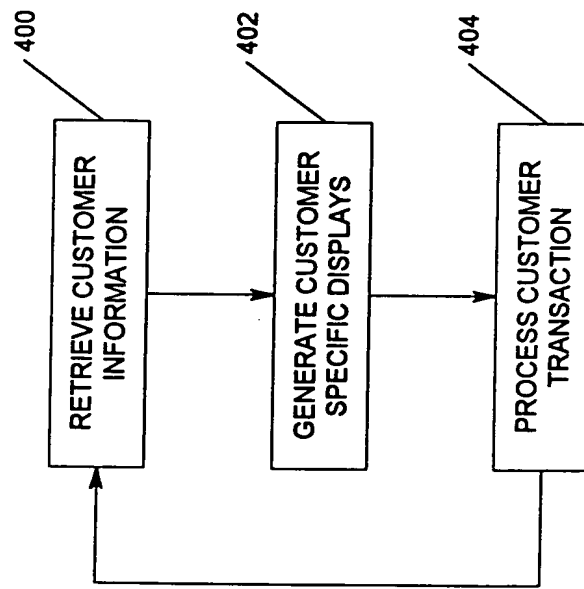
FIG. 3



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FIG. 4



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DATA WAREHOUSE APPLICATIONS FOR NETWORKS
OF SELF-SERVICE MACHINES

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

5 1. Field of the Invention

The present invention relates to systems and methods of data warehousing applications, and in particular to data warehouse applications for networks of self-service machines (SSMs).

10 2. Description of the Related Art

Database management systems are used to collect, store, disseminate, and analyze data. Large-scale, integrated database management systems provide an efficient, consistent, and secure data warehouse capability for storing, retrieving, and analyzing vast amounts of data. This ability to collect, analyze, and manage massive amounts of information has
15 become a virtual necessity in business today.

The information stored by these data warehouses can come from a variety of sources. One important data warehouse application involves the collection and analysis of information collected in the course of transactions between businesses and consumers. For example, when an individual uses a debit or credit card to access an automated teller
20 machine (ATM) or purchase an item at a retail store, the identity of the customer, the transaction, and other related information are collected. Traditionally, this information is

used only to determine if the transaction should be completed, and rarely for other purposes.

However, such data could also be used to identify demographic information concerning the customers and cross-sell other services and products. Unfortunately, the infrastructure of SSM networks does not support such uses of the information. Thus, there is a need in the art for mechanisms that allow for the exploitation of this information.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

To overcome the limitations in the prior art described above, and to overcome other limitations that will become apparent upon reading and understanding the present specification, the present invention discloses a network of interconnected self-service machines (SSMs), wherein each of the SSMs executes a relational database management system (RDBMS) that maintains a relational database stored on the SSM. The relational databases are partitions of a global relational database and each partition stores information for only those customers that frequent the SSM that executes the RDBMS. The relational databases are used to more effectively serve the customer at the SSM and to market products and services to the customer at the SSM.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Referring now to the drawings in which like reference numbers represent corresponding parts throughout:

FIG. 1 illustrates an exemplary hardware environment that could be used to implement the preferred embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 2 further illustrates the exemplary hardware environment of FIG. 1;

FIG. 3 illustrates the logic performed by the data warehouse system according to
5 the preferred embodiment of the present invention; and

FIG. 4 illustrates the logic performed by the self-service machines according to the preferred embodiment of the present invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

10 In the following description of the preferred embodiment, reference is made to the accompanying drawings which form a part hereof, and in which is shown by way of illustration a specific embodiment in which the invention may be practiced. It is to be understood that other embodiments may be utilized and structural changes may be made without departing from the scope of the present invention.

15

System Description

FIG. 1 illustrates an exemplary hardware environment that could be used to implement the preferred embodiment of the present invention. In the exemplary environment, a network 100 interconnects a plurality of self-service machines (SSMs) 102,
20 wherein the SSMs 102 may comprise automated teller machines (ATMs), computer-based retail kiosks, computer-based product vending machines, and the like. The network 100 also connects the SSMs 102 with one or more transaction processing systems 104 to

process transactions, such as informational, retail, commercial, banking, financial or other transactions. One or more data warehouse systems 106 are also connected to the network 100 for communication with both the SSMs 102 or transaction processing systems 104, wherein the data warehouse system 106 collects, stores, analyzes, and disseminates
5 information collected in the course of financial or commercial transactions between the SSMs 102 and the transaction processing system 104.

FIG. 2 further illustrates the exemplary hardware environment of FIG. 1. In this illustration, each the SSMs 102 are shown to comprise one or more processors 200 coupled to one or more fixed and/or removable data storage units (DSUs) 202, such as disk drives,
10 that store data and programming. Each of the SSMs 102 operate under the control of an operating system (OS) 204 and executes a relational database management system (RDBMS) 206 that maintains a relational database 208 stored on the DSUs 202.

SSMs 102 may be operated in large networks. For example, large financial institutions may have between 2,000 and 8,000 ATMs. These financial institutions also are
15 beginning to build centralized data warehouse systems 106 in order to collect information about their customers and to use that information to increase propensity, profitability and customer satisfaction.

However, using a centralized data warehouse system 106 to provide information-rich customer interaction at SSMs 102 is currently prohibitive, since it would likely lengthen
20 the amount of time involved in the SSM 102 transaction. For example, when using an SSM 102, a customer inserts their card into the SSM 102, their pin is validated locally within the SSM 102, a limited menu selection allows the customer to create the transaction

request, and then the transaction request is transmitted to the transaction processing system 104 for authorization.

This idle time is ideal for cross-selling opportunities. If this idle time is only slightly increased to retrieve and display information for the customer, no harm is done.

5 Unfortunately, if the idle time is substantially increased, or perceived to be increased, substantial harm may be done to the relationship with the customer.

Generally, the customer just wants to complete their transactions and leave. They are often unwilling to wait to absorb a cross-selling message after the transaction completes. Moreover, if the customer is forced to remain at the SSM 102 to receive the
10 cross-selling message, the overall transaction time rises, the SSM 102 queue gets longer, and customer service is perceived to suffer.

The majority of SSM 102 customers are creatures of habit and interact with a small number of SSMs 102 at a small number of predictable locations for the majority of their transactions (this is especially true with ATMs, for example). As indicated in FIG. 2, many
15 SSMs 102 comprise sophisticated computer systems; indeed, most will be based on sophisticated operating systems 204, such as WINDOWS NT™, within the next few years. As a result, more sophisticated customer-specific programming can be located at the SSMs 102 themselves rather than rely on access to the centralized data warehouse system 106 with its incumbent delays.

20 The preferred embodiment of the present invention essentially transforms the SSMs 102 into sophisticated platforms for RDBMS 206 applications that structure information, transactions, services, product offerings and the like based on the customer

information maintained by the RDBMS 206. Moreover, the network 100 of interconnected SSMs 102 can be considered a massively parallel processor (MPP) computer system that operates parallelized RDBMS's 206. The basic intent of the present invention is to view the individual relational databases 208 as subsets or partitions of a
5 global relational database, and each of the individual RDBMS's 206 as comprising part of a global RDBMS.

In the preferred embodiment of the present invention, the OS 204 comprises the WINDOWS NT™ product offered by Microsoft Corporation, although other OS's could be used as well. Moreover, in the preferred embodiment of the present invention, the
10 RDBMS 206 software comprises the Teradata® product offered by NCR Corporation, which is designed specifically for operation on MPP computer systems, although other RDBMS's could be used as well.

The global relational database is divided among the SSMs 102 by storing customer-specific information at specific SSMs 102. Thus, each DSU 202 stores a subset of the
15 global relational database and operations can be performed either locally or globally. In the preferred embodiment, the subset includes information on those customers that frequent the particular SSM 102.

Because the information is stored locally on the SSM 102, the SSM 102 is capable of using information about the customer, at the point of interaction, to more effectively
20 serve the customer, to provide personalized service, as well as to market products and services to the customer. Moreover, because the RDBMS 206 is a standard software product, it is available to other SSMs 102 or other systems on the network 100.

It is one goal of the present invention to parallelize functions across the SSMs 102. For example, queries or other operations can be divided into smaller sub-queries, each of which can be assigned to an SSM 102 based on the specific information stored on the SSMs 102. Alternatively, specific operations on particular information can be directed to
5 an SSM 102 storing the particular information.

In essence, the present invention decentralizes the centralized data warehouse system 106 to the network 100 of SSMs 102. Note that the network 100 of SSMs 102 may or may not be considered the primary data warehouse system; it may be just a duplicate or back-up of the data warehouse system 106. Moreover, the SSMs 102 and the centralized
10 data warehouse system 106 could be synchronized at night or during other low usage periods. Further, the SSMs 102 may synchronize or move data among each other as required.

The SSMs 102 may also capture detailed data about the customer's interaction (screens viewed, information presented, dwell time, and transaction information, if any) for
15 use both locally and globally. This detailed data could be uploaded to populate the centralized data warehouse system 106 or copied to another SSM 102.

Based on customer usage patterns as determined by the data warehouse system 106, data may be stored on multiple SSMs 102 or moved among SSMs 102 as required. Generally, customer usage patterns are fairly constant, and thus only a minimal amount of
20 data is moved at any time.

Such a system ties together the SSMs 102 and the centralized data warehouse system 106 in interesting and powerful ways. It demonstrates the leverage and utilization

that can be applied to a generally underutilized SSM 102 infrastructure. Moreover, it provides a foundation for more sophisticated applications.

Logic of the Data Warehouse System

5 FIG. 3 illustrates the logic performed by the data warehouse system 106 according to the preferred embodiment of the present invention.

Block 300 represents the data warehouse system 106 collecting information from the SSMs 102 and/or the transaction processing systems 104 in the course of financial or commercial transactions between the SSMs 102 and the transaction processing systems
10 104.

Block 302 represents the data warehouse system 106 analyzing the collected information to identify the locations at which specific customers interact with the SSMs
102.

Block 304 represents the data warehouse system 106 downloading customer-specific information to the identified SSMs 102. This step may also include downloading
15 customer-specific information retrieved from the transaction processing system 104.

Logic of the Automated Teller Machine

FIG. 4 illustrates the logic performed by the SSMs 102 according to the preferred
20 embodiment of the present invention.

Block 400 represents the SSM 102 retrieving customer-specific information from the relational database 208 stored on the SSMs 102. This information can be retrieved at

any time after the customer is identified by the SSM 102. Alternatively, this step may require the retrieval of customer-specific information from the transaction processing system 104, the data warehouse system 106, or one or more of the other SSMs 102, especially if the SSM 102 is not one frequented by the customer. The customer-specific
5 information is used to more effectively serve the customer, to provide personalized service, as well as market products and services to the customer.

Block 402 represents the SSM 102 generating a customer-specific display on the SSM 102. This step may be performed before or after any customer interaction (after the customer has been identified, of course). This step may also be performed during any idle
10 time while the customer is waiting for completion of a transaction or information request. The goal is not to increase the amount of time it takes for the transaction to complete.

Block 404 represents the SSM 102 processing a customer transaction or request. For example, this step may include accepting a request for information, services, or products from the customer into the SSM 102, validating the transaction (either locally or
15 remotely via the transaction processing system 104), presenting additional menu selections, and then communicating with the transaction processing system 104 to complete the transaction.

Conclusion

20 This concludes the description of the preferred embodiment of the invention. The following describes an alternative embodiment for accomplishing the same invention. In one alternative embodiment, any type of computer or network could be used to implement

the present invention. In addition, any database management system could benefit from the present invention.

In summary, the present invention discloses a network of interconnected automated teller machines (SSMs), wherein each of the SSMs executes a relational database management system (RDBMS) that maintains a relational database stored on the SSM. The relational databases are partitions of a global relational database and each partition stores information for only those customers that frequent the SSM that executes the RDBMS. The relational databases are used to more effectively serve the customer at the SSM and to market products and services to the customer at the SSM.

The foregoing description of the preferred embodiment of the invention has been presented for the purposes of illustration and description. It is not intended to be exhaustive or to limit the invention to the precise form disclosed. Many modifications and variations are possible in light of the above teaching. It is intended that the scope of the invention be limited not by this detailed description, but rather by the claims appended hereto.

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A network interconnecting a plurality of self-service machines (SSMs), wherein each of the SSMs executes a relational database management system (RDBMS) that maintains a relational database stored on the SSM.

5

2. The network of claim 1, wherein each of the relational databases stores information for only those customers that frequent the SSM.

3. The network of claim 2, wherein the SSM further comprises means for
10 using the information stored in the relational database to more effectively serve the customer at the SSM.

4. The network of claim 2, wherein the SSM further comprises means for
using the information stored in the relational database to market products and services to
15 the customer at the SSM.

5. The network of claim 2, wherein operations for the relational database are directed to the SSMs based on the information stored in the relational database on the SSMs.

20

6. The network of claim 2, further comprising means for storing the information in relational databases on a plurality of the SSMs.

7. The network of claim 2, further comprising means for moving the information stored in the relational database among the SSMs.

8. The network of claim 1, wherein each of the relational databases is a
5 partition of a global relational database, wherein the global relational database is comprised of a plurality of the relational databases stored on a plurality of the SSMs.

9. The network of claim 1, wherein each of the relational databases stores information on only those customers that frequent the SSM that executes the RDBMS.
10

10. The network of claim 1, further comprising one or more transaction processing systems coupled to the network for processing transactions from the SSMs.

11. The network of claim 1, further comprising one or more data warehouse
15 systems coupled to the network for storing information collected in the course of transactions involving the SSMs.

12. The network of claim 11, further comprising means for synchronizing the storage of information between the SSMs and the data warehouse system.
20

13. The network of claim 11, further comprising means for synchronizing the storage of information among the SSMs.

14. The network of claim 11, further comprising means for uploading information from the SSMs to the data warehouse system.

5 15. The network of claim 11, further comprising means for downloading information from the data warehouse system to the SSMs.

16. The network of claim 11, wherein the SSMs store a duplicate of the information stored on the data warehouse system.

10

17. The network of claim 11, wherein each of SSMs captures detailed data about the customer's interaction for use both locally at the SSMs and globally at the data warehouse system.

15 18. The network of claim 17, wherein the detailed data about the customer's interaction is stored for future use.

19. The network of claim 11, wherein the detailed data is uploaded to populate the data warehouse system.

20

20. The network of claim 11, wherein the customer-specific information is stored on the SSMs according to customer usage patterns as determined by the data warehouse system.

21. A method of processing information in a network interconnecting a plurality of self-service machines (SSMs), comprising:

executing a relational database management system (RDBMS) on each of the SSMs, wherein the RDBMS maintains a relational database stored on the SSM and each of the relational databases stores information for only those customers that frequent the SSM that executes the RDBMS;

using the information stored in the relational database to more effectively serve the customer at the SSM.

22. The method of claim 21, wherein the using step comprises using the information stored in the relational database to market products and services to the customer at the SSM.

23. The method of claim 21, wherein each of the relational databases is a partition of a global relational database and the global relational database is comprised of a plurality of the relational databases stored on a plurality of the SSMs.

24. The method of claim 21, further comprising processing financial transactions from the SSMs at one or more transaction processing systems coupled to the network.

25. The method of claim 21, further comprising storing information collected in the course of transactions involving the SSMs at one or more data warehouse systems coupled to the network.

5 26. The method of claim 25, further comprising synchronizing the storage of information between the SSMs and the data warehouse system.

27. The method of claim 25, further comprising synchronizing the storage of information among the SSMs.

10

28. The method of claim 25, further comprising uploading information from the SSMs to the data warehouse system.

29. The method of claim 25, further comprising downloading information
15 from the data warehouse system to the SSMs.

30. The method of claim 25, wherein the SSMs store a duplicate of the information stored on the data warehouse system.

20 31. The method of claim 25, wherein each of SSMs captures detailed data about the customer's interaction for use both locally at the SSMs and globally at the data warehouse system.

32. The network of claim 31, wherein the detailed data about the customer's interaction is stored for future use.

33. The method of claim 25, wherein the detailed data is uploaded to populate
5 the data warehouse system.

34. The method of claim 25, wherein the customer-specific information is stored on the SSMs according to customer usage patterns as determined by the data warehouse system.

10

35. A relational database management system (RDBMS) executed by a plurality of self-service machines (SSMs) interconnected by a network, wherein each of the SSMs stores a relational database, and each of the relational databases stores information for only those customers that frequent the SSM.

15

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A network of interconnected self-service machines (SSMs), wherein each of the SSMs executes a relational database management system (RDBMS) that maintains a relational database stored on the SSM. The relational databases are partitions of a global relational database and each partition stores information for only those customers that
5 frequent the SSM that executes the RDBMS. The relational databases are used to more effectively serve the customer at the SSM and to market products and services to the customer at the SSM.

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